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K I N G'S

MOST GRACIOUS

S P E E C H

A

THOUSAND YEARS HENCE.

WITH THE

Lords and Commons Address.

L O N D O N:

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P R E F A C E.

THE Title of the following Speech promises so distant a Hope, that to some it will rather prove impertinent than flattering. We could have wish'd, indeed, that, instead of a Thousand Years hence, we had had it in our Power to congratulate the Public with its having happened one thousand Part of the Time sooner: But as some Consolation for so remote an Expectation, we can assure them, with the greatest Appearance of Credibility, that the said Speech will then and there be delivered, without the Variation of a Tittle, it being the Production of a Gentleman, grown old in the Study of the Stars, and who has acquired so great a Reputation for his Predictions, as they are become a Law among his Acquaintance, and may be depended on with much greater Certainty than either Nixon's, Mother Shipton's, or the whole Possée of Almanack-Makers.

We

We are not insensible, however, from the Discredit which Astrology labours under at present, and more especially considering the Infidelity of the Age we live in, that the Number of Believers will be but small, who will be apt to look on such a Distance of Time as equivalent to never, and consequently the Public as imposed upon, by presenting them with a Speech which will never be spoken.

Those who entertain such an Opinion, must have no very favourable one of Majesty. For our Parts, we shall not be ashamed to declare, we believe the direct contrary, and That as firmly as we do any Article of Faith whatever, Tantum sufficit.

T H E

T H E
KING's Most Gracious Speech
A THOUSAND YEARS Hence.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT has been usual with almost all my Predecessors, through a long Tract of Ages, to have what is commonly called the K——g's Speech, drawn up by the Ministers, and afterwards considered in Council in order to its being eccho'd back from the Throne.

I make my first Appearance among you with a Resolution to depart from a Custom I apprehend to be injurious to Majesty. I will not address myself to you as a Puppet, in the Words of others, but as a K——g should, in the Royal Sentiments of his own Heart: Not in an artful Speech dress'd up by the Counsel of a few; but in such plain Language as the general Knowledge I have of Affairs shall suggest to me, that I may have the Sense of my whole People upon it. If there be less Exactness in extempore Discourses, you generally have more of the Heart. I have heard many a noble and affecting Harangue, in both Houses of Parliament, spoke directly to the Point in Debate; and I believe you will think, that a K——g ought rather to *set* than *follow* Example.

Many

Many of you seemed surpris'd when I told you my Intentions on this Head, as never having given any Room to suspect I would deviate from the usual Form while I held only the Rank of a Subject. I will own to you I kept my Sentiments to myself: I found my Royal Father, of glorious Memory, acted upon Principles of Government widely different from those I had imbib'd; and I did not hope the Authority of a Son was likely to prevail over that of a Father. You see the Reason of my Silence; but I promise you I will now be as open as before I was reserved; and if the doing this should carry me into a greater Length than is customary on such Occasions, I hope it will not be unacceptable to you, inasmuch as it is very essential to the People, that they should be made to know (once in his Life at least) what Stamp of Policy the Prince bears, who is appointed to rule over them; that if he discovers a Fund of good Principles, they may rejoice; if otherwise, that they may be guarded against them.

I will tell you than some of my Notions of Government, without observing any other Method or Order, but as they shall happen to occur to my Memory.

In the first Place, I look upon the End of all Government to be the Good of the Governed, that is the People; and hold our Form of Government in particular to be of most excellent Contrivance, compos'd, like other Pieces of Mechanism, of different Parts, all distinct from each other, yet all conspiring to give a regular, uniform Motion to the whole System. The three Powers that constitute it, are admirable Checks upon each other; the second serving as a Check upon the third, and both as a Check upon the first. Some of our ancient Authors have very honestly and consistently contended for a Constitutional Independency; that is, such a Freedom of Motion as takes from any of the Powers the compelling Property they may have gained over the others, contrary to the true Intention of it. Others again have as shamefully pleaded for a corrupt Dependency, which absolutely renders the Powers so dependent useless for the Time being, and would infallibly destroy the Constitution in Time to come, if this dangerous Doctrine were suffered to grow into a Maxim. I have always held such slavish Writers in Abhorrence, and I trust I always shall. It shall ever be my Pride to consult my Parliament, and often;
and

and what is more, I shall scorn to purchase a Senator as you would the Smiles of a Wanton; I should blush to have a Majority of my Servants in Office, instead of my independent Subjects in the Country.

All Institutions, however exactly designed, I'm sensible are liable to Corruption; and none that hear me I believe will say that our Constitution is free from it.—I can see, at least, it is much the worse for Wear.—I can see many Errors I could wish amended, and which I shall make it the Study and Glory of my Reign to rectify. I would not, methinks, have so fair a Fabric moulder away, though absolute Rule, under a Military Force, were raised on its Ruins.

This you will think extraordinary Language from my Mouth; but if there never was such a Thing *in Fact* as a *Royal Patriot*, it is Time to give the World an Example.—But let me proceed.

In my Opinion, a mix'd or limited Government, that is degenerated, is far more oppressive than the most absolute that is well administered. Under the former, the People pay their Taxes chearfully; nay, I believe, more in Proportion than under the most absolute Monarch in his most lavish Demands: And why? From this single Consideration; because they imagine they are assessed by their own Consent: But if they should be taxed on every frivolous Pretence for any long Continuance; and should wicked Combinations and Collusions of every Sort be added to drain them of their Wealth, then they would have that Satisfaction no longer to boast of, and must necessarily seek a Remedy in themselves, which is what, God willing, and your Assistance, I would prevent.

I come now to mention those three mighty Words, which have proved a kind of Magic to former Princes; I mean, *Favourites*, *Power* and *Ambition*. As to Favourites, I confess I am greatly scandalized, and ashamed in looking into past Times, to find that Princes have been so grossly misled and imposed upon by them: For my Part, I am determined not to be in the Leading-strings of any Man whatever, neither will I be made the Instrument only of those Acts of Government, which Subordination requires should pass through the Hands of Ministers. If I am to be the *Sun*, I will not be indebted to other subordinate Bodies for Heat. If I am the Principal, I will not act an inferior Part. If I am the Substance, I will not be the Shadow. I could wish

wish too to see all odious Distinctions among us abolished, that I might be the Father of all my People.

As to Power and Ambition, they are either good or bad Instruments in the Hands of Princes, according to the Ends they are directed to. All Power derived from Force, or Artifice, is delusive; it will be opposed where it may, and be shaken off where it can. I look upon that Power alone to be depended on which is founded in the Hearts of the Subject, and that Ambition alone laudable, which has for its Object the Welfare of Mankind; Power or Ambition, on any other Terms, is *false Power*, and *false Ambition*, and such as has cost many a King his Crown. For my Part, I protest to you I'm so little desirous of that lawless and unnatural sort of Power, that I will at any time spare you some of my Prerogative for some of your Confidence. I will have no Kindred but my People: I will have no Inquietudes but their Welfare: I will be jealous of nothing but their Affections: There is my Fortress: There is my real Strength: There my real Security, my real Glory, my only Felicity. Does it require any great Portion of Wisdom to determine me in the Choice?

As to my Coronation-Oath, be assured I will be as choice of it as of the Apple of my Eye. A Violation of that is the severest of all Reproaches; for what can carry a more infamous Idea than a perjured Prince, that levels himself with a common Knight of the Post?

I may mistake myself, but I do not know that I have any public Vices; and, therefore, whatever private Frailties I may have in common with my Subjects, there will be this Satisfaction, there will be no Danger that the indulging of these will be at the Expence of the Public; for I am sensible nothing is more common than for wicked Ministers to sacrifice to a Prince's private Failings, that they may be the better able to compass some public Wrong.

I look upon it, that a few wise Maxims invariably adhered to, are sufficient to make a Common-wealth flourish, as we see in the *Dutch* and *Venetian* States. Our Navy and our Commerce are like some Plants I have read of, which dwindle to nothing when kept asunder, but preserve their Vigour when united. Let us not divide them then; long may they flourish together: We certainly cannot give too much Encouragement to the one, nor too much Protection to the other: This is the Source of our *Riches*; that the Bulwark of our *Safety*. There

is one grand Error appears to me to have run through most of our former Politics with regard to foreign Affairs: We seem very much to have acted the Part of the *Busy Body*; who, from a strange Itch to meddle with other People's Concerns, very often create Misunderstandings between his best Friends, and is always laugh'd at, to his Cost, by his Enemies: Whereas, I think we should never be too forward in acceding to Alliances or Guarantees, or engaging in foreign Wars, but should rather wait till invited thereto, and that pressingly, by our Neighbours the *Dutch*; who, as they must be always nearest the Danger, are the best Judges when such Alliances, or such Guarantees, or such Wars are necessary. Policy not founded on Wisdom and Honesty, is only another Name for knavish, low Cunning; and I would much rather that my Government should be famous for the *former* than the *latter*. I am a great Lover too of steady Councils. In fine, I am for having Government, as well as Religion, in its native Purity; for Religion, or Government, supported by Trick and Imposture, reflects Dishonour on God and King, and brings the Institutions themselves into Contempt; the Consequence of which is Licentiousness, Immorality, Sedition, and all that can be horrible to Society.

The last Consideration of Royalty is Pomp. I will keep up the Decency of it, but not amuse myself with the Fopperies of State. By the one, a Prince makes use of as much as is necessary to preserve Dignity, which deserves Commendation: By the other, he shews himself capable of being affected by Outside, which is mean and ridiculous.

But after all my fine Professions, perhaps some among you that know how easy it is to make them, and direct others to act differently, may have your Doubts about you. I am sensible I have read of Princes who may have promised as fair as myself, but afterwards have taken Care to give the Minister his Cue more agreeable to his real Thoughts. I desire you, however, to believe this shall never be the Case with me. If ever I am found acting upon different Principles from what I have advanced, I give you Leave to quote my Words to my own Confusion.

The Freedom of Speech, the Liberty of the Subject, and Freedom of the Press, are indeed such important Privileges that a House of Parliament
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would be mere Cyphers without them ! As these are the eternal Enemies of the Guilty, so these are the only Persons have Occasion to dread them ; and therefore the only Persons that will take every Method to undermine them. If you abuse them as public Men, they are galled : If you charge them with ever so many Faults as private Men, they are so Scandal Proof they can laugh at them all. Let us suppose, on the other Hand, that, by an Abuse of these Privileges, they should happen to injure an innocent Man ; is it not better that he should suffer awhile, as a Particular, than that any the least Restraint should be laid upon them, whereby the whole Community would be Sufferers ?

But let us pass from Maxim to the present Posture of Affairs : We are engaged in a just and necessary War, which I am sorry to say does not seem to have been carried on with that Spirit and Vigour it ought, and might have been. There has not been wanting the Sinews of War ; liberal Aids have been granted, but hitherto to little Purpose : We have exhausted ourselves without weakening the Enemy : The national Interest seems to have been greatly neglected, if not sacrificed to foreign Considerations ; and what is as deplorable, we have lost too the Confidence of our most natural Friends, insomuch that we are derided at Home ! and distrusted, if not despised, Abroad ! From a well-nigh fatal Partiality even Allegiance and Loyalty seem tottering : These are untoward Circumstances : Now what is to be done to remedy these Evils ? How shall we put an honourable End to the War ? how recover the Friendship of our ancient Allies ? how check the Progress of our ambitious Neighbours ? or how conciliate the Minds of the People ? I'll tell you in a few Words—— We must first redress and reconcile at Home before we shall be able to persuade or conquer Abroad. Let us make our haughty Mercenaries know themselves ; let us set heartily about the Work of Justice ; let us enquire into the Conduct of evil Counsellors ; let us enact good and wholesome Laws, and repeal such as shall be found to be oppressive : In a Word, let us restore the Constitution to its true Vigour ; then let us act, not with half, but with our whole Force, and I will answer, whether in our Negotiations of Peace, or Operations of War, that all will terminate in the Honour and Interest of the Nation.

These are some of my public Sentiments ; there are others that do not deserve less to be attended to ; but those I will leave to *Action* and not *Words* ; in the mean Time I think proper to tell you, I have directed a more powerful Protection of our Trade, as well as more vigorous Measures,

tures, both in the *Mediterranean* and the *West Indies* ; and do not doubt of your Concurrence and Support.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons.

I have ordered the proper Estimates to be laid before you.—I do assure you I desire no more Taxes than what are absolutely necessary for the public Service, and no more Tax-gatherers than are barely necessary to collect them. You will agree with me, I imagine, that we ought to be at as little Charge as possible in the Collection, inasmuch, as the Taxes being burthensome in themselves, we should not create a greater Burthen in the Multiplicity of Tax-gatherers.—My Lords and Gentlemen, I do not want you to hurry the Session—Let all go on in due Order—Grievances first, and then the Supplies—As to the Rest, I recommend Unanimity in all your Deliberations.

The Humble Address of the Right Honorable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled.

Die Martis 26^{mo} Novembris, 2743.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, are so affected with the unusual and laudable Manner in which you have been pleased to explain yourself to us, that it is with a Mixture of the utmost Joy and Surprise, we beg Leave to return your Majesty our sincere and humble Thanks for your *truly* most gracious Speech from the Throne.

We perfectly agree with your Majesty, that it is of great Importance to the People to be made acquainted with the political Completion of a Prince (once in his Reign at least) who is born to rule over them ; and 'tis an inexpressible Pleasure to us to find, that your Majesty does not

content yourself with general Professions, but is pleased to descend into such essential Particulars, as cannot fail to endear you to all your Subjects, as they cannot but look upon this as an Event rather to be wished than hoped for : An Event that could only exist in Theory, and never be brought into Practice.

Your Majesty's excellent Definition of Government will be ever gratefully remembered, as well as the just Distinction you have been pleased to make of the constitutional Independency of the three Branches of the Legislature ; the Pride your Majesty will take in often consulting your Parliament, affords a most glorious Prospect to these Kingdoms : Nor is the truly Royal Disdain you express with Regard to that Part of its Members enjoying Places, one of the least Prefages of its Happiness.

We acknowledge with your Majesty, that the Constitution is not free from Corruption : We are sensible of the Errors that are crept into it, and shall be proud to co-operate with your Majesty in the Redress of them. It is with Hearts full of Joy and Gratitude that we observe your Majesty's generous Contempt of absolute Rule under a military Force; nor are we less affected at the tender and truly fatherly Concern you express for the heavy Burthens your People labour under, as well as with your Detestation of those sinister Ways too often made a Handle of to continue and encrease them ; and which your Majesty justly observes would, in the End, force them to seek a Remedy in themselves : But, thank Providence, and your Majesty's most truly and most gracious Declaration of providing one yourself, we are no longer in Danger of such alarming Extremities.

Your Majesty has expressed yourself so emphatically on these three intoxicating Words, *Favourites*, *Power* and *Ambition*, and which so many of our Princes have felt the fatal Effects of ; that we can only admire, without adding any Thing to what has been said on those important Heads. The Unconcern with which you speak of your Prerogative, and the Manner in which you speak to your People, are at once so gracious and affectionate, as shew you a *Father* as well as a *King* ; as shew you truly *Wise* as well as *Good*.

The Sense your Majesty entertains of your Coronation Oath is perfectly just ; and we are thoroughly persuaded of your maintaining it inviolably.

Many

Many have been the Instances in former Times of Ministers making the Frailties of their Royal Masters subservient to their own wicked Purposes ; and we are not a little satisfied to observe, that this can never be your Majesty's Case, inasmuch as your public Principles, being so truly Virtuous, it is impossible that these, and private Passions of a vicious Nature, should ever grow in one Garden together.

The wise Maxims your Majesty has suggested to us, are such as are capable of making any Nation Great and Happy, and we will do all that in us lies to establish them into Practice.

Your Majesty has expressed yourself with so much Moderation with Regard to the Pomp of Royalty, that we do not know which to admire most : Your Greatness of Soul therein, or the Philosophy of it ; and we beg Leave to add, that nothing can be a more certain Indication of a narrow Mind, than to be captivated by out-side Shew.

The Professions your Majesty has been pleased to make us, bear such genuine Marks of honest Truth flowing from the Heart, that it were the highest Injustice and Ingratitude to doubt the Sincerity of them ; and we further assure your Majesty, that we will never believe, that a Prince of the magnanimous Principles you have discovered, can be capable of so mean a Prevarication, as to do that by private Direction, which he himself had just before openly disavowed.

Your Majesty has set forth the Neglects of the War, as well as of the national Interest, in such strong Terms, and pointed out the Causes, as well as so effectual a Method to redress all our public Grievances and Misfortunes, that we should deservedly forfeit the Name of *Britons* if we were not ready with Heart and Hand to contribute to so salutary a Work : And accordingly, after our most sincere and reiterated Acknowledgments for the tender Concern you have every where expressed of the Public, we conclude, with assuring your Majesty, that our Proceedings and Resolutions shall be solely directed to the attaining those great and desirable Ends, and are fully determined to stand by, and defend your Majesty and Government against all your Enemies.

The Humble Address of the Honourable the House of Commons.

Die Martis 30mo Novembris, 2743.

Most Gracious Sovereign!

WE Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects the Commons of *Great Britain* in Parliament assembled, with an unusual Satisfaction of Mind, beg Leave to return your Majesty our sincerest Thanks for your Majesty's most gracious Speech from the Throne: A Speech so new, so admirable, so benevolent in its Kind, as does Honour to the Royal Dignity, reflects the highest Glory on your Majesty, and opens a Prospect of the greatest Happiness and Prosperity to these Nations, that Government is capable of bestowing.

In other States they usually make their own Interests the sole Guide of their Policies: We have too often rather pursued the Interests of others than our own; too frequently likewise has the Contest been in former Times between Prince and People; and while the one endeavoured to make the other his Slaves, he was always made the Dupe of other Princes; for where Dissentions of this Nature subsist, foreign Powers must be courted in Case of Accidents; and foreign Powers always know how to make the most of them: But by your Majesty's truly great and wise Conduct, it is with Pleasure we observe, that we have none of those Evils to apprehend; nor will your Majesty be exposed to that mean Dependence on others, which too many of your Ancestors have submitted to, so highly to their Dishonour as Kings of *Great Britain*.

What, indeed, may we not expect from a Prince who professes, that he will not govern by *Will*, but *Love*? Not by the crooked Rules of *modern Policy*, but by the plain Path of *Honesty* and *Common Sense*?

This single Maxim is sufficient to shew ambitious Princes their Error; and we are fully persuaded, that there is more intrinsic Power in your Majesty's Speech than in any Number of Men whatever raised by an influenced

fluenced mercenary Majority ; and we believe we are not mistaken if we further add, that the Words contained in it, will carry an Army in every Letter to your Majesty's Enemies abroad ; as they will create more Affection in the Hearts of your Subjects at home, than all the languid Common-place Congratulations from *Magna Charta* to this Day.

In fine, the Sense we have of your Majesty's Goodness and Wisdom is inexpressible ; and to follow your Majesty thro' all your excellent Distinctions, judicious Remarks, and fatherly Condescensions, were to swell our Address into a Volume.

Your Majesty, therefore, will permit your faithful Commons to conclude, with assuring your Majesty, that we will, with the greatest Alacrity and Readiness, set about those Great and National Points mentioned in your most gracious Speech ; and as you have shewn yourself a true Prince, we will likewise shew ourselves a true House of Commons : We will cast out the Unclean from among us ; we will manifest to the World the *Integrity* of our *Hearts*, and the *Purity* of our *Hands* ; we will also grant such Supplies as shall be found necessary for carrying on the War with the greatest Vigour ; and further will endeavour, in all our Deliberations, to shew that we have nothing so much at Heart, as the Redress of all Grievances complained of by the People, the Honour of your Majesty, the Support of the Government, and the true Interest of your Majesty's Crown and Kingdoms.

F I N I S.

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It would have been my duty to have been with you in the field, but I was not able to do so. I am sorry to hear that you are not well, and I hope you will soon be able to return to your duties. I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

In the event of your being able to return to your duties, I am sure you will find that the work is still going on, and that the Government is still in the hands of the same men.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

Wm. Lloyd Garrison

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Wm. Lloyd Garrison

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